



# STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** October 7, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM:** 5A

**TITLE:**

Library Director's Report

**AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:**

Bonnie Pierson, Library Director

**PROGRAMMING:**

On Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, sixteen teens gathered for Balloon Bonanza during Teen Thursday. The event featured a variety of fun activities, including balloon hockey, balloon animal creation, "try not to pop the balloon" games.

On Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, forty-one participants attended the month's LEGO® Club, where the theme was "Opposites." Children were encouraged to create mirrored builds, along with other challenges. Parents were also informed about the upcoming Tween Tuesday, which begins on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

On Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, the library partnered with the Bastrop County Master Gardeners to provide a program about composting. Master Gardener Gail Smith presented a guided study of "How to Compost," with an analysis of different methods, preliminary microbiology, and DIY plans for implementing at home. The seed library was displayed during the program, and most attendees utilized this resource.

After the summer program's success, the library partnered with the Bastrop County Animal Shelter for the second "Silent Reading with Kittens" program on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Kittens were available to read and socialize with in the Maynard Conference Room from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. A total of 156 people attended the program, nearly triple the attendance of the previous program. To accommodate the large turnout, groups of ten to twelve people were rotated in and out of the room on 10-minute intervals. While waiting, most patrons read amongst themselves, played board games, or worked on the community puzzle.

Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> is Fire Safety week. To spread awareness, City of Bastrop firefighters will be at the library's Storytime programs on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. The firefighters will talk to the kids about fire safety and show them their uniform and tools before demonstrating how they put on their suits. They'll also have a firetruck with them for the kids to see and take photos with.

City Manager Sylvia Carrillo will attend and read stories during Bilingual Storytime on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this session will be Halloween and Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, and children are encouraged to dress in costumes to celebrate the occasion.

On Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the library will celebrate Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, with a screening of a themed Disney movie. In collaboration with Bastrop High School's PALS, a sugar skull craft will also be offered for children to enjoy before the movie.

**NOTEWORTHY:**

The Bastrop Public Library has been selected for the 2024 Rescuing Texas History program through the University of North Texas (UNT). The library was awarded the value \$682.10, as work in kind, to fund the digitization and preservation of the "Bastrop County Cemetery Records" prepared by Audrey Morgan Rother, the Bastrop County Historical Commission (1983-1993; 6 volumes), "Bastrop Historical Buildings" prepared by the Bastrop County Historical Commission (1976; 1 volume), and "A survey of Texas Historical markers in Bastrop County" prepared by the Bastrop County Historical Commission (1975; 1 volume). These documents will be digitally preserved, run through optical character recognition to enable full-text search where applicable, and made available for public viewing on the Portal to Texas History. The selected documents are all original works created by researchers in the Bastrop community. This award ensures these historic documents are freely available for current and future researchers. Documents will be delivered to UNT on October 11<sup>th</sup> and digitization will follow.

Library Clerk Patricia Norton resigned from the position on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Zoe Moreno, a summer clerk from this year's Summer Reading Program, was hired to fill the vacancy. Her first day was Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Director Bonnie Pierson celebrated her 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the library on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Window tint was added to the library's west-facing windows in the Juvenile section on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Bastrop Count Elections Staff were available from 12 – 3 pm to verify registration or complete a new form at the all the public libraries in Bastrop County for National Voter's Registration Day on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Staff computers were upgraded in phases from Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> through Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Computers staff use to serve the public were also included in this upgrade.

The Bastrop Public Library has registered as a worksite through a partnership with American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to help participants learn transferrable skills and gain work experience. The library's first worker through the partnership, Marilyn Rice, started on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. She will be working Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm.

On Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, Children's Services Associate Ariel Dirienzo and Youth Services Librarian Eva Bernal attended the 2024 Performer Showcase in Seguin, Texas. Their goal was to scout performers for the 2025 Summer Reading Program.

The library has made space for a local author's collection. The collection will be located on the shelves facing the community art wall. Items on this shelf will be acquired by donation only, must be Young Adult Fiction, Adult Fiction, or Adult Non-Fiction materials, and authors must be residents of Bastrop County. The library expects to begin accepting donations for the collection by the end of October.

The City of Bastrop ended its 2024 fiscal year on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, and started the 2025 fiscal year on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. The library's budget was approved without any adjustments.

**UPDATES ON THE FOLLOWING:**

Friends of the Library update.

- October Author – Brian Porter
- Annual meeting

Photo ID library cards: no new information currently.

**COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:**

“I really enjoyed the summer reading program! I used my Book Nook coupons to get some picture books for my little great-grandchildren who just love to read. Thank you for doing this program!”

- Nancy, Patron

“I had so much computer work to do and uploads and I couldn't have done it without you all.”

- Patron

“Thank you to whoever is responsible for these clean bathrooms. Thank you, that's so wonderful!”

-Patron



SAT, SEP 28 AT 11 AM  
**Read with Kittens**  
1100 Church St, Bastrop, TX, United States, Texas 78602  
5 Going · 65 Interested

16      3

Like      Comment      Share

Newest ▾

 **Billy Joe Wise**  
My idea of heaven would be a room full of books and kittens. I'M THERE!

**SEWING MACHINES 101**  
No registration required! Ages 8+ 

17      5      7

Like      Comment      Share

Newest ▾

 **Donna Vest**  
Excellent event. Learned alot. Thank you

32m Love Reply Send message Hide



**Joan Armstrong**  
Warren Pedersen loves audio books and the Bastrop Public Library. They are one of his lifesavers!!!!

Dear Karen,

Oh boy, you have no idea how joyful my heart is after receiving my new TexShare card in the mail - thanks to you! I am once again enjoying the full benefits and privileges of library patronage ♥. Oh the depths of discovery, the heights of wonder, the earnestness of learning new things, and the pleasures of fiction - all thanks to you! Come right when I needed it. Thank you so very much. Kate

Thank you librarians, for this fun summer of reading, and the prizes, I appreciate you setting up the summer reading program.



from Amelia  
2024